



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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February 2008 Ag Prices Received

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February 2008 full month crop prices were mixed when compared with January 2008, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Montana wheat prices set new record highs for all classes. Montana's winter wheat price was \$7.31 per bushel, up \$1.06 from the previous month, spring wheat prices increased \$0.66 to \$8.66 per bushel, durum wheat prices rose \$1.10 to \$11.20 per bushel. Feed barley prices decreased \$0.05 from the previous month to \$4.72 per bushel, but malt barley prices increased \$0.04 to \$4.26 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay rose \$11.00 to \$89.00 per ton, but all other hay decreased \$3.00 to \$79.00 per ton. Mid-March grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at \$11.00 per bushel, spring wheat was \$13.00 per bushel, durum wheat was \$12.20 per bushel, malt barley was \$5.08 per bushel, and feed barley was \$4.35 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mostly higher when compared with January 2008. Steer and heifers increased \$3.20 to \$102.00 per cwt, cows increased \$7.20 to \$52.70 per cwt. The price for calves was up \$4.00 to \$120.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped \$7.90 to \$20.80 per cwt, but lamb prices increased \$7.00 to \$110.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased \$0.30 per cwt from last month to \$21.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March were \$95.60 per cwt, cows were \$51.10 per cwt, beef cattle were \$93.40 per cwt, calves were \$121.00 per cwt, and milk prices were \$20.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was \$8.97 per bushel, up \$1.19, spring wheat was \$11.10 per bushel, up \$3.11, durum wheat was \$13.50 per bushel, up \$0.30, the all barley price was \$4.39 per bushel, up \$0.05, steer and heifer prices were \$94.20 per cwt, up \$0.80, cows were \$51.40 per cwt, up \$5.10; calves were \$120.00 per cwt, up \$3.00; sheep were \$29.90 per cwt, down \$2.00, and lambs were \$96.80 per cwt, down \$0.70.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was \$11.00 per bushel, spring wheat was \$12.50 per bushel, durum wheat was \$14.50 per bushel, all wheat was \$11.70 per bushel, malt barley was \$4.89 per bushel, feed barley was \$4.41 per bushel, and all barley was \$4.75 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were \$93.80 per cwt, cows were \$52.20 per cwt, calves were \$120.00 per cwt, all hogs were \$41.20 per cwt, and all eggs were \$1.38 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.0 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

#end#

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	15-Mar-08	15-Mar-08
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	4.65	6.25	7.31	8.97	1.06	2.66	11.00	11.00
Durum Wheat	Bu	5.12	10.10	11.20	13.50	1.10	6.08	12.20	14.50
Spring Wheat	Bu	4.78	8.00	8.66	11.10	0.66	3.88	13.00	12.50
All Wheat	Bu	4.74	7.20	8.01	9.98	0.81	3.27	11.80	11.70
All Barley	Bu	3.17	4.50	4.39	4.39	-0.11	1.22	4.87	4.75
Feed Barley	Bu	3.00	4.77	4.72	4.67	-0.05	1.72	4.35	4.41
Malt Barley	Bu	3.20	4.22	4.26	4.31	0.04	1.06	5.08	4.89
Oats	Bu	na	3.06	na	3.20	na	na	na	3.38
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	80.00	77.00	78.00	138.00	1.00	-2.00	89.00	143.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	70.00	82.00	122.00	12.00	11.00	79.00	128.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	79.00	76.00	78.00	133.00	2.00	-1.00	88.00	139.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	94.70	98.80	102.00	94.20	3.20	7.30	95.60	93.80
Cows	Cwt	47.70	45.50	52.70	51.40	7.20	5.00	51.10	52.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	83.90	89.20	93.60	89.00	4.40	9.70	93.40	88.70
Calves	Cwt	113.00	116.00	120.00	120.00	4.00	7.00	121.00	120.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.30	28.70	20.80	29.90	-7.90	-9.50	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	99.60	103.00	110.00	96.80	7.00	10.40	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	14.80	20.70	21.00	19.10	0.30	6.20	20.20	18.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.